

51 years later: Anna Marie Tilghman's widows' pension



Tench Tilghman's gravestone, courtesy of [Wikimedia](#).

Fifty-one years after Tench Tilghman's death, his wife (who was a cousin), Anna Marie Tilghman, got a widows' pension. [Tilghman](#) was, as the Maryland State Archives [argues](#), "one of Maryland's great patriots" due to his public service as part of a "commission established to form treaties with the Six Nations of Indian tribes," a captain in "the Pennsylvania Battalion of the Flying Camp," and serving as an unpaid aide-de-camp to George Washington from August 1776

to May 1781 when Washington got him “a regular commission in the Continental Army.” His final task was “the honor of carrying the Articles of Capitulation to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.” Other than that, the Maryland State Archives writes that Tench was

born on December 25, 1744 in Talbot County on his father’s plantation. He was educated privately until the age of 14, when he went to Philadelphia to live with his grandfather, Tench Francis. In 1761, he graduated from the College and Academy of Philadelphia, which later became the University of Pennsylvania, and then went into business with his uncle Tench Francis, Jr. until just before the Revolutionary War. After the War, Tilghman returned to Maryland where he resumed his career in business in Baltimore and married his cousin, Anna Marie Tilghman. They had two daughters, Anna Margaretta and Elizabeth Tench. Tilghman died on April 18, 1786 at the age of 41.

His gravestone [was placed](#) in Talbot County’s Oxford Cemetery long after his death. That’s because he died at St. Paul’s Church [in Baltimore](#), with the remains brought from there to Talbot County in 1971 but the original gravestone, without the plaque, does tell something about him.

The widows pension by Anna Maria Tilghman tells an interesting story.¹ The first page shows that not only is it a pension for Anna Maria but that Tench also received a land grant, with “[B.L.W.T.](#)” noting an “application for a warrant for bounty land” promised to him since he “served to the end of the war”:

¹ Pension of Tench Tilghman, 1837, B.L.Wt 1158-450, Widow’s Pension Application File, W.9522, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives, NARA M804, Record Group 15. Courtesy of Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.

Maryland 614
 Anna Maria Tilghman
 widow of Jench Tilghman
 who died on the 18. April 1785
 of Talbot Co. in the State of Maryland
 who was a Lt. Col. in the ^{commanded}
 by Captain ^{of the Army} ^{commanded}
 by Genl. Washington in the ^{War}
 for 2 years

Inscribed on the Roll of Maryland
 at the rate of 600 Dollars ^{per annum}
 to commence on the 1st day of March, 1836.

Certificate of Pension issued the 28. day of March
 1837 and sent to Mr. Tilghman
 Permitted

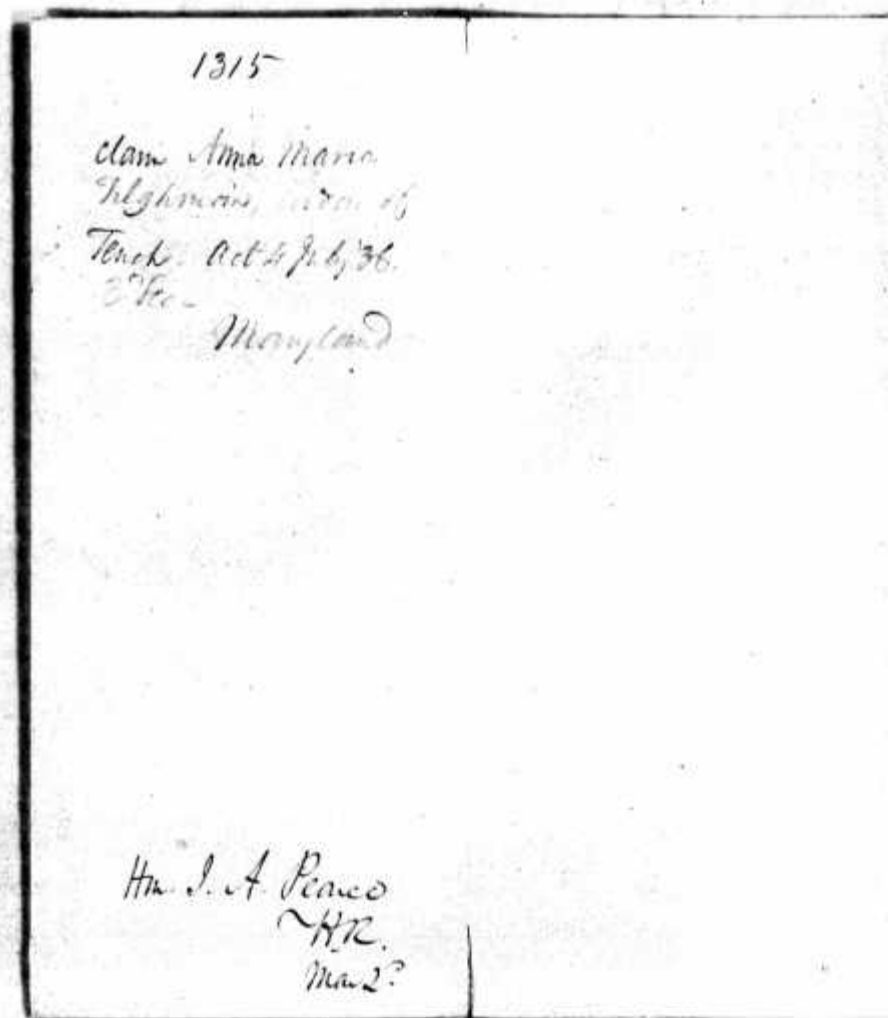
Amount to the 1st of March 37.	3000.00
Pensional allowance ending 1st Sep.	300.00
	<u>\$3900.00</u>

{ Revolutionary Claims,
 As July 4, 1836,
 Section the

Recorded by D. Brown Clerk,
 Book Vol. 1. Page 185

Let to T. Tilghman May 8 1837
 Mr. Tilghman Westborough,
 Oct 30 1838

The next page doesn't say much else other than that her claim would be processed in Maryland under the 1836 Pension Act covering veterans of the war with Britain from 1812-1815 and the Revolutionary War:



The page following is a personal appeal by her on February 24, 1837 in which she, before the Talbot County Orphans Court notes that she is the widow of Tench who serves as an Aide to Camp to George Washington and Lt. Colonel in the PA line, serving in total from January 1, 1777 to November 3, 1783. She also notes that she married Tench on June 9, 1783, and that he died on April 18, 1786:

State of Maryland

On this Twenty fourth day of February Eighteen hundred & thirty seven, personally appeared before the Orphans Court of Talbot County, Maryland, Anna Maria Tilykman, a resident of the County of Talbot and State of Maryland, aged eighty one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1830: That she is the widow of Jacob Tilykman deceased, who was a Lt Col. in the Pennsylvania line and an Aid de Camp to General Washington, and served from January 1st 1777 to Nov 3rd 1783; as by reference to the records in the County land and Taxes Auditors offices will more fully appear. She further declares that she was married to the said Jacob Tilykman, on the ninth day of June, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three; that her husband, the afore said Jacob Tilykman, died on the eighteenth day of April in the year seventeen hundred and eighty six; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the records of the said Auditor and the affidavits containing the proof of the marriage, &c hereto annexed.

Anna Maria Tishman

From to, and subscribed, on the day and year above written, before
W. Wright, Notary Public. Sav. Mach. } justices of the
County of Essex. } probate of will.

The next page is a judge on the Orphans Court in Talbot County, James Price, certifying her declaration is correct, nothing more, nothing less:

State of Maryland,
Talbot County, &c.

I, James Price, Register of Wills of Talbot County,
in Maryland, do hereby certify that Solomon Dickerson,
William Byrdell & Samuel Macky, whose names
are, respectively, subscribed to the within Declaration,
are the three Judges of the Orphans Court of Talbot
County aforesaid, & of a Court of Record, duly commissioned
& qualified and were such Judges, respectively, at the
time of their subscribing names as aforesaid to the
tenor of the making the said Declaration.

In Witness Whereof I have hereto set my
hand and the Seal of my Office
affixed this 24th day of February
in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and
thirty seven. — (Ja. Price), Regr.
of Wills for Talbot County.

Then on March 11, 1837, an 82-year-old woman named Henrietta Maria Francis appeared before the Talbot County Orphans Court. She said she was “well acquainted with Col Tench Tilghman of Baltimore City,” noting that she first met him in 1780, noting that through the years it was recounts how he was an aide-de-camp of George Washington. She was also, of course, familiar with Anna Maria Tilghman, saying that she was the daughter of one Matthew Tilghman, noting also that they were both married in June 1783. Clearly, she was related on a

familial level to Tench: her husband, Philip Francis, was Tench's uncle, whom Tench visited in March 1783 after their marriage.

State of Maryland }
Talbot County, to wit } To it remembered that on this eleventh
day of March in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and
thirty seven, personally appears before me the subscriber,
one of the Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in
and for Talbot County Mrs Henrietta Maria Francis of
the county aforesaid, aged eighty two years; and being first
duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposed
and said as follows to wit, that she was well acquainted
with Col Tench Tilyman of Baltimore City, deceased, that
she was first acquainted with him in or about the year
seventeen hundred and eighty; and afterwards, during
his life; that he was reputed and understood to be one
of the aides of General Washington during the Revolutionary
War; and this deponent has been well acquainted with
Mrs Anna Maria Tilyman, the widow and relict of the
said Col Tench Tilyman and daughter of the late Hon.
Matthew Tilyman from her youth; and that this de-
ponent recollects that the said Col Tench Tilyman
and Anna Maria Tilyman were married in the month
of June seventeen hundred and eighty three as was uni-
versally understood and known at that time; that the
said marriage of Col Tench Tilyman and Anna Maria
Tilyman has been from the month of June 1783 seven-
teen hundred and eighty three always universally received
and considered an unquestionable fact -

This deponent further saith that she intermarried with
Philip Francis, the uncle of the said Col Tench Tilyman
in the year seventeen hundred and eighty; and in the
year seventeen hundred and eighty three was living near
Eden Park, near the town of Wilmington, in Delaware;
and that the said Col Tench Tilyman just before his
marriage, and in the month of March seventeen hundred
and eighty three, made a visit to the deponents husband,

She adds that Tench died three years after she married Philip Francis, with Anna Maria (called she after this section) having one daughter before Tench's death, and another after Tench died (she must have been in labor when Tench died), and has since stayed as a widow. Others writing below her attest to the veracity of this statement:

at his residence aforesaid, and then and there spoke
of his intended marriage; and that the said Col Touch
Tilghman died about three years after his marriage
with the said Anna Maria Tilghman, leaving her a
widow with one daughter and that she had a second
daughter after his death - and that the said Anna
Maria Tilghman has remained a widow ever since
that period -

Kenneth M. Finley

Taken and subscribed on the day and year aforesaid
before me the subscriber, a justice of the Peace in and for
of the State of Maryland in and for Talbot County -

Robert W. Thomas

I do hereby certify that the venerable deponent to the above
instrument foriting is a lady of undoubted credibility
and of the highest reputation for character and general
respectability.

Robert W. Thomas

Maryland Talbot County, to-wit
I James Parrott, Clerk of Talbot County Court
do certify that Robert W. Thomas, Gentleman, is a Justice of
the Peace as above mentioned; and that the above signatures,
purporting to be his signatures, are genuine.



In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the seal of my Office
this thirtieth day of March, in the year of
our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
thirty seven.

James Parrott
Clerk of Talbot County Court

Cert. & Seal 25th

By October 1858 it is asserted that Anna Maria died in 1843, with another Tilghman (M. Tilghman Goldborough) filing a continuing claim as they inherited her estate interestingly:

Elmhurst near Easton Md
October 23rd 1858

To the U. S. Commissioner
of Pensions, Washington D.C.

Dr Sir,

You will oblige
me and others interested in a legal
controversy now pending, by sending
me at your earliest convenience,
an official statement of the
total amount of Pension
which was paid to Mrs. Anna Maria
Tilghman, widow of the late Col
Rush Tilghman of the Revolution,
specifying the dates of the com-
mencement & ending of the
payments.

She died in the year 1843.

With great respect

Yr ob^d Serv^t

M. Tilghman Goldsborough
Adm^r of Goldsboro D.C.
Grandson of Col. Tench &
Anna Maria Tilghman D^{ca}

From there, Elizabeth Goldborough, likely the mother of the above-listed M. Tilghman Goldsborough, turns out to be the daughter of Anna Maria and Tench! It is also noted that her sister is named Margaret who died, leaving her the only heir. This document, issued by a Talbot County Justice of the Peace in December 1825, shows that Margaret and Elizabeth were children of Anna Maria and Tench Tilghman without a doubt:

State of Maryland } ss.
County of Talbot

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace, for said County, *Elizabeth Goldsborough* and made oath, in due form of law, that she is the daughter and heir at law, of *Colonel Tench Tilghman* late a soldier in the Regiment of

and that the said *Tench Tilghman* died leaving the said *Elizabeth & Margaret Tilghman* who has been dead his heirs at law

Sworn and subscribed before me, this

6th day of December 1825

Wm. Harrison J. P. } *Elizabeth Goldsborough*

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County, *Timothy B. Brown* and *Annals Martin* credible and disinterested witnesses, and made oath, in due form of law, that they are acquainted with the above mentioned *Elizabeth Goldsborough* and that she is the reputed daughter of *Tench Tilghman* who died in 1786 leaving the said *Elizabeth & Margaret Tilghman* who has been dead his heirs at law

Sworn and subscribed before me, this

6th day of December 1825

Wm. Harrison J. P. } *T. B. Brown*
Annals Martin

Note.—If the person died without leaving child or children, &c. it must be so stated.

The State of Maryland - Talbot County to wit:

I, *Jacob Lockerman* Clerk of the County Court, do certify, that *William Harrison* before whom the above Affidavits were taken, was at the time a Justice of the Peace for said County. Given under my hand and Seal of Office, this sixth day of December 1825.

Jacob Lockerman Clerk of
Talbot County

The pension goes on to say that Elizabeth is an heir of Tench Tilghman, and quickly notes Tench's military service:

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

Regulations for the heirs of Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary Army, who were slain by the enemy, or who have died since the war, and have not received land from the United States.

By an Act of Congress, of the 16th September, 1776, it is provided, that the Officers and Soldiers who engaged for, and continued to serve during the war, or until discharged by Congress, and the heirs of such Officers and Soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, shall receive land in proportion to their rank.

N. B. Those who engaged for three years, or for any other period than during the war, or who died of sickness, fatigue, or casualty, are not entitled to land from the United States.

The following declaration (and enclosed blank form of heirship) must be filled up and signed by the proper authorities:

State of Maryland
County of Talbot —

I *Elizabeth Goldsborough* heir at law of *Lieut Colonel Tench Tilghman* do, upon oath, testify and declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that *he* *Tench Tilghman* — did *begin* 1776, for the term of during the war, and served in the regiment No. — under the command of Colonel — of the *Pennsylvania* line; and that he continued in the service aforesaid until *the end of the war as aid to the Camp of the Army*.
I further declare, that I have never received a warrant for the bounty land promised to *the said Tench Tilghman* on the part of the United States; nor do I believe that he ever received it, or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever: therefore,

Know all men by these presents, that I, *Elizabeth Goldsborough* — aforesaid, do hereby constitute and appoint *Tench Tilghman* to be my true and lawful attorney, for me and in my name to demand and receive from the Secretary of War of the United States, a warrant for the quantity of Land due to me as aforesaid; and my said attorney is hereby fully authorized and empowered to constitute and appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys under him, for the special purposes above expressed.

Attest,

Wm. Harrison

Elizabeth Goldsborough

Personally appeared the above named *Elizabeth Goldsborough* — subscriber to the foregoing declaration, and in my presence acknowledged the power of attorney thereto subjoined to be *her* free act and deed, for the purposes therein mentioned.

Attest,

Wm. Harrison

Justice of the Peace.

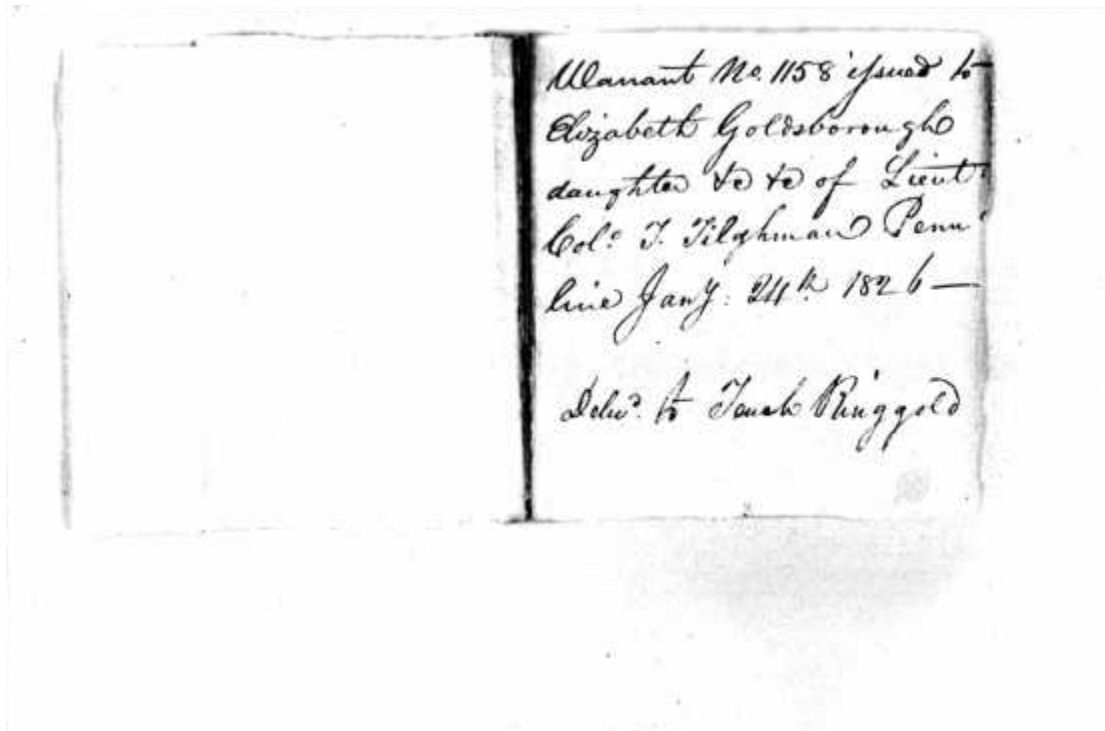
Talbot County S.

In testimony that the above written *William Harrison* was a magistrate authorized to administer oaths, and take acknowledgments, &c., in the State of *Maryland* at the above date, and that his name there subscribed appears to me to be his usual signature, I have hereunto affixed the county seal, and subscribed my name and quality, at *Easton*, this *16th* day of *December* — 18 *25*.

Jacob Dockemant Clerk of
Talbot County Court

The next page makes it clear that all of those previous pages specifically related to a bounty land warrant claim, which is wrapped up within the pages of Tench's pension papers,

making it possible for Tench's wife Anna Maria to apply for a widows pension in 1837 and Elizabeth to apply for the bounty land warrant in 1825, for her son to come back in the 1850s saying that now want to apply for the pension. This page makes it clear that Elizabeth's request was granted in January of 1826:



In May 1929, the War Department tried to sort all of this out. As they summarized, it was clear that Tench served from January 1, 1777, to November 3, 1783, as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army and an aide-de-camp to General Washington, dying on April 18, 1783. They also summarized how Tench married Anna Maria on June 8, 1783, allowed a pension on February 13, 1837 but died on January 18, 1843. They also wrote that they had two children, Elizabeth and Margaret with the former child marrying a man named Goldsborough of Talbot County, Maryland, while the latter had a son named Tench Tilghman, marrying a man whose name is not yet known.

May 3, 1929

Mrs. Charles H. Bowen
Box 22, Hennington
Virginia

Madam:

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.9522, it appears that Tench Tilghman served from January 1, 1777, to November 3, 1783, as Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army and Aid-de-Camp to General Washington.

He died, April 18, 1786.

The soldier married, June 8, 1783, Anna Maria Tilghman, daughter of Honorable Matthew Tilghman. She was allowed pension on her application executed February 24, 1837, at which time she was a resident of Talbot County, Maryland, aged eighty-one years.

She died, January 13, 1843.

They had two children, Margaret and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth married --- Goldsborough, of Talbot County, Maryland; Margaret died and left a son Tench Tilghman, the name of her husband is not shown.

The final page says that a "grandson" named M. Tilghman Goldsborough is referred to in 1858 but no other family data is known.

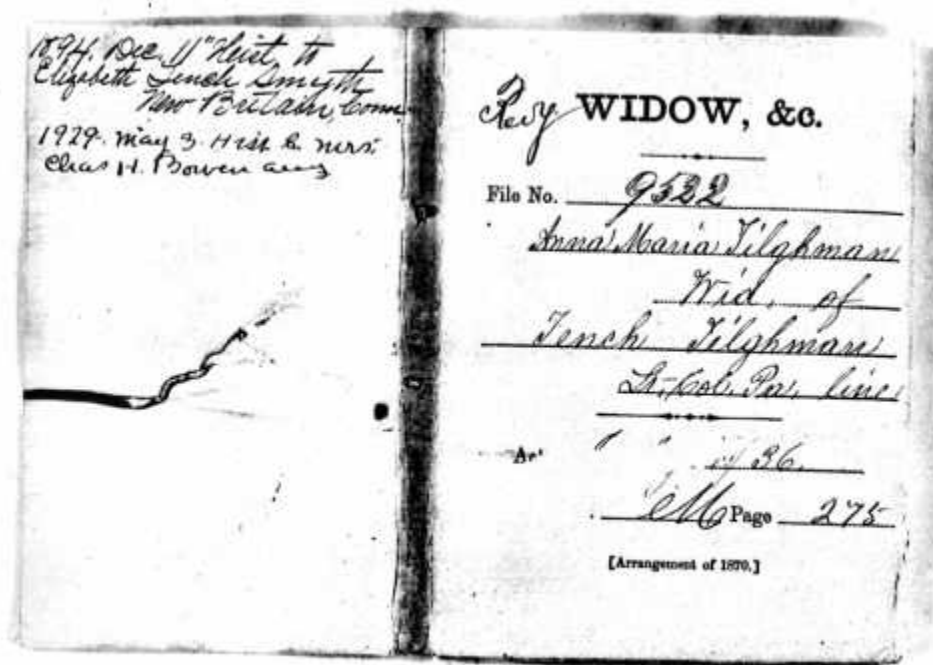
A grandson, M. Tilghman Goldsborough, is referred
to in 1858.

There are no further family data.

Respectfully,

E. W. MORGAN
Acting Commissioner.

The next page just notes Anna Maria's widows pension claim:



In May 1843, a man named Tench Tilghman said that he obtained a pension claim for a Mrs. Anna Maria Tilghman, widow of Tench in 1837, noting that Anna Maria died January 13, 1843, at age 88, if I read that right. He further notes that the youngest daughter of Anna Maria and Tench, Elizabeth (“Mrs. C.T. Goldsborough”), who was noted earlier, is an heir, while he is the son of the older daughter, Margaret. As such, he asks the pension commissioner to whom the pension now belongs:

Wilmington on near Boston Post

May 2^d 1843.

Col. J. L. Edwards,

Sir,

In the year 1807 I obtained
from your office a pension of \$500 for Mrs. Anna
Maria Telford ~~widow~~ of the State of Maryland
widow of Tench Telford - who was a Lieutenant
Colonel in the War of the Revolution, and aid to the Com-
mander in Chief.

This venerable lady whose house had been the
home of Genl Washington during his visits to the city
of Baltimore after the close of the Revolution depar-
ted this life on the 12th of January last in the 88th year
of her age -

Her heirs are Mrs C. T. Goldsborough of Talbot
county who is her youngest child and was born af-
ter the demise of her husband, and myself as the
son of her eldest daughter.

Having taken out letters of administration on
her estate I have to request that you will do me the favor
to inform me to whom the balance due on her pension
properly belongs and will thank you if your convenience
permits to address me at Barnum's in Baltimore.

I expect to be in the 10th of May

J. L. Edwards

Commissioner of Pensions

Very respectfully

J. C. Telford

Tench Telford

Then there is an earlier letter from J.L. Edwards, the pension commissioner in March 1837, saying that the papers in the case of the pension are returned as the evidence is "not being sufficient to establish the claim" because of new regulations on pensions. Perhaps this is what prompted the second Tench's letter in 1843, for which a response is not known:

War Department
Pension Office
March 2, 1837

Sir,

The papers in the case of M^{rs} Anna
Mariah Tilghman, widow of Col. Tench Tilghman, dec.
have been examined, and they are herewith returned, the
evidence not being sufficient to establish the claim. It
is indispensably necessary under the regulations adopted
under the act of July 4, 1836, that some proof other
than the claimant's own statement as to the time when the
marriage took place should be produced. Enclosed are
the printed rules of evidence for her guidance. As recent
evidence ^{of the marriage} cannot be had in this case, recent evidence as to
the age of her eldest child may be important to show that she was
married as far back as June 1783.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Yours Obedt. Servt.

J. L. Edwards

Hon. James A. Pearce
House of Representatives

A further letter from J.L. Edwards, in March 1837, confirms that Tench did serve from
January 1, 1777, to November 3, 1783:

It appears from the Revolutionary records on file
in this office, that Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman, of the Penny train
line, (and who appears to have been an aide de camp to General
Washington) has been paid for his services from the 1st of
January 1777 to the 3rd of November 1783 - and also for his
commutation of Five years full pay in lieu of Half-pay
for life -

Treasury Department

3rd Auditor Office

13th February 1837.

Thos. H. Agnew Secy

To.

J. L. Edwards Esq

Commissioner of Pensions

Then there is a letter from a later descendant in 1894 to the pension office about Tench's pension papers:

not J.
New Britain Co-
Nov. 19th 1894
Wm. Lockman
Dear Sir
please send no more
as Consistent. The Antislavery
History. J. Col. Tench. Tilghman
You Gov. Washington's Aid -
Born Dec. 25th 1744 -
was present at the
"Remembrance of Councils,
direct reply to Amos
Elizabeth Tench. Smyth,
City.

After that there is a 1928 letter by another descendant, Grace Cottingham Tilghman Bowen (who married a man named Charles Hay Bowen), leading to the response from the War Department as noted earlier in this post:

Remington, Ia.
Oct. 9th. 1928.

The Commissioners of Pensions,
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir:



Will you please inform me whether John Cottingham, of Worcester County Maryland, a soldier in the A. Revolution under Capt. John Watkins in 3rd Md. Independent Company, is on the Gov. Pension list there? If so, do I have his record correct, and is there any other information about him, as to who his father was, or his son, or to whom he was married?

This John Cottingham was my great grand father, and if I have the data correct, I would like to join the D.A.R. thru his record.

Is there a record on your files of any other Cottingham? If

The second page specifically focuses on Tench:

so, will you please send this to
me too? Also I should like to
inquire into the record of Gen.
Tench Tilghman, who I believe also
to be my ancestor. My grand father,
Levin Catlingham (who I believe served
in the war of 1812) married Mary Ann
Tilghman of Maryland, and I should
like very much to know something of
my Tilghman ancestors. Being the
youngest in my family, and having
lost my parents early in life, I know
so little of my ancestors. and should
you be able to help me to gain in-
formation, I shall deem it a great favor.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Charles Hay Bowen

Box 22

Remington, Virginia -

(Grace Tilghman Catlingham Bowen)

There is much to be learned from this pension. For one, that Tench served as a Lt. Colonel and Aide-De-Camp from 1777 to 1783, and that he married Anna Maria Tilghman, his cousin, in June 1783 when she was 28 years old (born in 1755). Furthermore, it is also clear that he had two children with her, Margaret (older) and Elizabeth (younger), with the latter child born after the "demise of her husband" Tench. From there, Margaret later had a child named Tench

Tilghman, meaning that she married a person with the surname of Tilghman, while Elizabeth married a man named C.T. Goldsborough and seemingly had a child named M. Tilghman Goldsborough. It is not known when Margaret or Elizabeth died, but only that Margaret was dead sometime before 1825 (when Elizabeth filed her claim for the bounty land), while Elizabeth lived until at least 1843. Furthermore, it is also noted that Tench lived in Baltimore where he met a woman named Henrietta Maria Francis, who was 25 when she was first “acquainted” with Tench, and she married a man named Philip Francis, the uncle of Tench, whom Tench visited in March 1783 after the marriage of Henrietta and Philip. All this calls for another post to dig into this more, which will be coming to you from this wonderful blog next week!

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